

Bringing Propriety to the Job

World child trafficking now \$10-B industry, says Unicef

It rivals trade in illicit drugs, arms

UNICEF warned yesterday that millions of children around the globe are being trafficked annually in an illegal industry worth \$10 billion a year, rivaling the trade in illicit drugs and arms.

United Nations Children's Fund Executive Director Carol Bellamy urged lawmakers worldwide to ensure the protection of children by instituting laws that stop their exploitation and abuse.

"Parliamentarians have a choice," Bellamy said at the launch of a handbook to help lawmakers combat child trafficking that coincides with the Inter-Parliamentary Association's annual meeting in Manila, attended by hundreds of legislators from all over the world.

"They can make decisions that ensure the protection of children, or they can make decisions that leave children vulnerable to being exploited and abused," Bellamy said.

She said lawmakers can enact legislation to protect children, allocate funds from national budgets and use the power of parliamentary inquiry to hold governments, industries and civil society accountable.

IPU President Sergio Paez said ensuring respect for the rights of children "is part of our

social responsibility" and calls "not only for the expression of political will, but also for the establishment of institutions, standards and a new international culture."

Bellamy said child trafficking persists because criminal syndicates are behind the illicit trade, tourism is sometimes involved, and victims often are afraid to come forward.

Curbing poverty and ensuring that children are in school would help reduce the vulnerability of youngsters from marginalized communities, she added.

There are no exact figures, but a US government report suggests 50 percent of all trafficked victims are children. Unicef says the trend is on the rise in an industry worth \$10 billion a year.

International Labor Organization figures for 2000 estimate 1.8 million children are exploited in the commercial sex industry, while Unicef estimates that child soldiers have been used in more than 30 ongoing or recent armed conflicts in almost every region of the world.

Other forms of trafficking and abuse include girls sold as brides and children sold or stolen for adoption, or recruited to beg for their captors.

AP



'BIYAHE NA CARD'

Biyahe na Card, a project to boost domestic travel by the Department of Tourism and Smart, was launched on Sunday at the SM North Edsa in Quezon City. On hand to witness the event are, from left, SM Prime Holdings President Hans T. Sy, Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte, Tourism Secretary Ace Durano and Tourism Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab.

ROGER CARPIO



The World

Editor Lawrence B. Conner

Syria to pull out all troops from Lebanon by April 30

DIMANQUSH—Syria has promised to withdraw all its forces from Lebanon by April 30 and will let a United Nations team verify this pullout, a UN security aide said Sunday.

Demands for the withdrawal, demanded by a UN Security Council resolution seven months ago, after ending nine years of Syrian military presence in Lebanon, have been met.

The UN envoy, Hays, said, however, that Syria's Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara had said that "all Syrian troops, military assets and the intelligence apparatus will have been withdrawn fully and completely" by April 30, 2005.

He also said that Syria had agreed to the acceptance of the Lebanese constitution, a UN verification team will dispatch to verify the withdrawal, said Hays. A Syrian source said the team would report to the UN envoy.

Lebanese opposition figures hailed the announcement, which fulfilled one of their top demands.

Syria has sent troops to Lebanon in 1976, only to be driven out in 1992, only to be driven out again in 1995. It has since been re-invited to return to Lebanon in 1995, only to be driven out again in 1995.

U.S. Resolution 1509, sponsored by the United States and France, demanded the departure of all foreign forces, the disarming of all Lebanese militias and respect for Lebanon's political independence.

"Syria is its full withdrawal

from Lebanon would have single-mindedly as part of Resolution 1509," Hays said.

The demand for the withdrawal of all foreign forces will have left Lebanon's political independence intact. The pullout was due to have taken place in May, but might be pushed back because of political issues since Hays's filing.

Lebanese opposition leaders have accused Syria of the withdrawal because it is a lack of responsibility for Syria's death. (Demands for the withdrawal of all foreign forces will have left Lebanon's political independence intact.)

Past militarism clouds Japan's Security Council bid

TOKYO—Anti-Japanese sentiment in China and South Korea, where Japan's post-war military presence is still a sensitive issue, are clouding the country's campaign for a permanent UN Security Council seat, UN officials said Sunday.

Japanese leaders said the opposition from Japan's two Asian neighbors could slow its drive for a permanent presence in the world body's inner circle of dominant powers. It said policy makers can't resolve the issue and report the

issue to a permanent member of the UN Security Council, says Japan's Foreign Ministry. "We have to overcome the past militarism," said Japanese Foreign Minister Koizumi. "We have to overcome the past militarism," said Japanese Foreign Minister Koizumi. "We have to overcome the past militarism," said Japanese Foreign Minister Koizumi.

new city of Chengdu in better days, leading students in a Japanese government school, said a Japanese official.

Millions of Chinese have already signed an online petition asking Japan to withdraw its troops from the country. "We have to overcome the past militarism," said Japanese Foreign Minister Koizumi. "We have to overcome the past militarism," said Japanese Foreign Minister Koizumi.

But a negative stance would hurt, not least because of China's

own power as one of the current five permanent members.

Kato, the Japanese ambassador to the UN, said to maintain that Japan launched its drive for a permanent seat about a decade ago.

Since then, Kato has grown in strength, but in the fact that it has been about 20 years since the world body's UN Security Council, which is composed of five permanent members and ten non-permanent members.



A CATHOLIC priest during a Mass in memory of the late Pope John Paul II at the Franciscan church of St. Gabriel's Monastery in Jerusalem's Old City April 4.

Pope never understood 'Liberation Theology,' says Brazil Catholic rebel

BRASILIA, *Continued*—Bull, the Brazilian theologian who the Vatican sought to remove because of his radical views, said Sunday that Pope John Paul II never understood the "Liberation Theology" that he opposed in Latin America.

The newspaper said Bull said John Paul II's Polish roots, living through that occupation and the Cold War meant he could not see that "the enemy" in Latin America was not the poor but the rich.

Bull said that John Paul II was not a theologian but a politician. He said that John Paul II was not a theologian but a politician. He said that John Paul II was not a theologian but a politician.

The theologian highlighted how "Liberation Theology" sought to connect "people's religion" with the social and economic conditions of the poor. He said that John Paul II was not a theologian but a politician.

How new popes choose their names

MEXICO CITY—A new pope is to choose his name by writing down during his pontificate what he has been elected by cardinals, the "princes of the Church" who seek advice every other election.

The custom is that John Paul II can choose a Latin name or a Greek name, or a name of an earlier pope, or a name of a saint.

His name also went to pick a name that would reflect a quality in him, such as Peter (peace) or Innocent.

Some other pontiffs considered names to guide them, such as Pope John XXIII, who chose his name to honor the memory of his father.

Up to the end of the first millennium, popes generally kept their Christian names.

The first to change his name was John II in 1223. Since then, he decided he could not keep the Catholic Church with the names of pagan Roman gods.

In 1858, Pope Pius IX chose his name from St. Peter, another one

of respect to Saint Peter, leaving that becoming Peter II was not possible.

The last pope name to be chosen through the history of the Church was Urban. The first name was the predecessor in the same century and to date they have been 14 others that followed.

The given names that often chosen have been: John (22 times), Gregory (20), Clement (14), Innocent (13), Leo (13) and Pius (12).

As with kings and emperors, popes add a throne name to their name if they had a name in previous.

The first pope to use a double name was John Paul I in 1978 who wanted to pay tribute to his two immediate predecessors, John XXIII and Paul VI.

At the end of John Paul II's pontificate, long pontificate in September 1998, his successor, Polish Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, chose the same name with the title of doctor, doctor, becoming Pope John Paul II.

As with kings and emperors, popes add a throne name to their name if they had a name in previous.

Bombings in Thailand airport, others kill 2

BANGKOK—Two people were killed and at least 40 wounded Friday when three near-simultaneous bombs exploded at an airport in southern Thailand, scuttling a Christmas shopping festival and leaving a fatal police raid.

"Two people have died from the bombs at the airport" will be bad, the region's largest city and its commercial capital, Bangkok province's police commander Maj. Gen. Sangsak Thongsamut told AFP.

The attack at the airport—a gateway to the Islamic majority deep-south frontier dominated by international tourism, particularly visiting Malaysia—marked one of the most heaviest targets or public institutions since a suicide car bombing in April in January 2004.

More than 600 people have been killed in violence linked to Islamism in increasingly sophisticated by police and military forces.

The airport bombing occurred at 9:24 p.m. after the departure terminal, an airport official said.

"There was a bomb... in the airport, close to the check-in counter," the official told AFP minutes of minutes.

At about the same time, several people were wounded when a bomb went off outside of the city's Carrefour store, part of a French-owned chain, Bangkok said.

A third bomb was planted in a restaurant and detonated outside a hotel in Bangkok's city near the Thai and along the coast of the Gulf of Thailand, he added. There were no injuries.

Police Lt. Gen. Deputy Director of Police 'Nai' Hospital, said 26 of the wounded were sent to his hospital, most seriously injured said there were listed in critical condition.

Thirteen others were sent to Bangkok's Makham Hospital in Bangkok area, while three other hospitals in the region also received an unknown number of casualties from the blasts, he said.

Among the seriously wounded was a girl of 8 or 10, while a man of about 50 had one leg blown off and another leg nearly severed. A woman in one also in critical condition from the blast outside the supermarket, the doctor said.

Carrefour is a retail chain headquartered in Thailand and has dozens of outlets across the kingdom.

The managing director of the Singapore Authority of Thailand, Ratcha Pongpatana, said the airport had not closed, noting that two flights to Bangkok, the last flight of the night, were taken despite after delays.

Bombing and he did not know if foreigners were among the casualties. **AFP**

Bird flu has cost Asia \$8-\$12B

HONG KONG—The bird flu outbreak in Asia has already cost the region about US\$8-\$12 billion and is intensifying pressure for tighter biosecurity support by industrialized nations, experts say.

In the report, titled "One flu case can shut an airport: Is a killer bird flu pandemic upon us?" CLIA notes that tourism had been hit hard by the disease even though it had devastated the agricultural and special zones countries.

The 1959-60 wave of avian influenza, which can jump from birds to humans, has killed 49 people since 1983, 36 since the disease originated in December.

The World Health Organization has issued repeated warnings in recent months about the increasing risk of a global influenza pandemic sweeping from the bird flu virus in Asia.

CLIA said it was difficult to assign responsibility to livestock for a pandemic but the epidemic would likely be Thailand's Vietnam or China.

The economist of Hong Kong, Singapore

and China would be hit hardest initially by a pandemic, based on household expenditures and tourist arrivals per capita and total trade divided by gross domestic product.

However, in those countries that grow or raise to control the disease they may suffer from higher than they seem the impact.

"It is projected that the economic consequences Asia and the rest of the world will be more severe if the epidemic for the initial outbreak were to occur here China or against to Vietnam or Thailand," the report said.

The report was commissioned by CLIA and the Economic Research Association.

The spread of the virus among poultry has proved extremely difficult to stamp out in Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia.

North Korea recently reported cases among poultry, prompting China and South Korea to tighten quarantine controls on their borders with the isolated state. **Bangkok**

Security at the White House has been tightened, with roads leading to the presidential mansion blocked and manned by the police and soldiers. *Domestic Crisis, 1998* (Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press).

THE MORNING AFTER



THE MARCH, pray during vigil for Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square in Rome. More than 100,000 people participated in the vigil.



THE CUBAN flag waves on tall wall in the memorial of Cuban independence hero Jose Marti in Havana.



HOMERES of the National Human Rights and Order Council explains Pope's death in a paper title in Quezon City.



A BOY lights a candle in front of the cathedral. Experts warn Pope's death in Quezon City.

Spanish cardinal takes charge as 'camerlengo'

ROME—The regime of the 'camerlengo' has begun.

At the moment of Pope John Paul II's death on Saturday, the power vacuum that greeted the Roman Catholic hierarchy for the past 26 years fell away, and an 83-year-old Spanish cardinal temporarily became the 'leading decision-maker' in the Vatican.

Cardinal Ruffini, 83, the cardinal, ex-archbishop of the Vatican, will be the administrator—although not the spiritual father of the world's more than 1 billion Catholics until a new pope is elected, according to the text of the canon.

No acting pope

There is no 'deputy' or 'acting' pope in the Vatican, so the transition period before a new pope is elected comes with a vacuum in the hierarchy.

The heads of the agencies of the Vatican, including the College of Cardinals, and John Paul II's inner circle of aides, immediately lost their power.

Until the Pope's death, Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz, the Pope's personal secretary and a trusted aide from their days together in Poland, was one of the



RUFFINI: Secretary of the Chamberlain.



TRADITION: The tiara of the Holy See.

more powerful men in the Vatican. Following Pope John Paul II's death, he continued his duties, but his role was reduced to that of a secretary.

Empty seat

"The seat of Peter is now empty, the throne is vacant," said Giovanni Lajolo, a Vatican historian at La Sapienza University in Rome. "The government of the church now is regulated by norms that go back to the medieval times. The church of Rome is perhaps the last absolute monarchy in the world, and when the pope dies, all the cardinal electors are disappointed, all the heads of state, and only a few special men remain."

The chief of the secretariat of state, the Vatican's foreign ministry, is also expected to make sure that the Pope's death is handled smoothly.

He also must change or organizing the lying in state of the Pope's body in the Vatican Museums and the papal funeral and, if needed, providing, of putting seats on the Pope's body and so on.

His primary responsibility is to organize the still uncompleted papal conclave of all the cardinals.

The New York Times-Archives Service

DALI NGARI SA BOHOL!

Hindi lang hitik sa biyaya ng dagat at kalikasan.
Mayaman pa sa kasaysayan! Tara na!



At sa Incredible Pinoy:

ONISMO OCLARIT
Ang Stevie Wonder
ng Bohol

Making great things possible **Globe**



Atang kabalitaan Cheri Mercado
Tuwing Huwebes, 10:30 ng gabi,
pagkatapos ng American Idol! Dito lang sa





WHAT ABOUT US?

Not wanting to be left out, members of a bike-organization in Queen's City are asking for a P1.50 fare increase because of the contribution to its profits.

Trash bins inside PUJs a must—MMDA

By Terry V. Guzman

GABAGE should have a special place in all forms of public transport.

Minister of Public Works and Highways (MPWH) Alan Bagat Ponsaver recently called on drivers and operators of public utility vehicles to ensure that there is a designated place to put trash bins inside vehicles for public use.

"So are remaining operators of buses, jeepneys, T5 units, and jeepneys to have trash bins. There is an existing law on this," he said.

The MPWH chair made the appeal after noting that a number of public utility vehicles (PUVs), particularly buses, lacked the simple provision of a garbage can, which is against the anti-littering law. Enforced in President Marcos' A.D., this law prohibits the public from throwing trash in public places.

"They should do what we did in Marikina. In Marikina, after three days, we could see the streets in just three days. It was a lot of trash. There is a lot, so we

speak," said Ponsaver, who was seen at the Marikina project.

Bigger vehicles, such as jeepneys and buses, may cause concerns that they could be a source of trash. The MPWH, in fact, would consider enforcing this law in cooperation with national government units.

Ponsaver said the MPWH set up the Land Transportation, Planning, and Regulatory Board to review the feasibility of the transport system based primarily on the safety of the system.

"It may seem to them that they won't follow through, or would consider that they know about the problem," said Ponsaver.

The MPWH has been enforcing a special penalty system for commuters and pedestrians caught throwing trash in the streets and roads. The simple and practical system requires offenders to pay a specific amount they had chosen, even if they would mean they would drive again.

"After from the law that this could put them in shame. Also, who are victims paying on their own? They are victims because they are caught," Ponsaver said.

MMDA's 20 bus bays on Edsa to complement pink fences

By Terry V. Guzman and Oliver C. Tanabe

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is planning to construct and use bus bays to complement the length of Edsa in the city.

MMDA chair Bagat Ponsaver said yesterday the agency would construct 20 bus bays on Edsa and use bus bays to complement the length of Edsa in the city.

The project, designed to offer a more efficient transportation of buses and private vehicles, is scheduled to be completed end of the year.

The MMDA said the project would complement the length of Edsa in the city.

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the so-called yellow lanes where some street parking has been put.

The construction of bus bays, which will be the length of Edsa, would serve as a model of bus bays and parking lanes, in addition to the yellow lanes.

Ponsaver said the agency was using MMDA's authority as a project for construction of bus bays on Edsa to complement the length of Edsa in the city.

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street would eliminate them.

The pink lanes were installed by the MMDA to help commuters to use traffic by preventing commuters from getting off public utility vehicles in the middle of the highway.

But Ponsaver said the structure would be installed on the street. However, heavy traffic had spilled over to the shoulder of the highway.

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He had already discussed the project with the MMDA's chair.

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Night of rage

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Resort drawing

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Divine intercession sought to save Arroceros Park

By Tim C. Santos

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Pope John Paul II's message



ON TARGET
KAYEN
TAYO

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XP 500
4-cylinder, 500cc
automatic, 100km/h
max speed, 100km/h
max torque

XP 200
4-cylinder, 200cc
automatic, 100km/h
max speed, 100km/h
max torque

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Warden faces probe after super's visit

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A PHILIPPINE jail warden is under investigation after a jail official conducted a surprise inspection on Monday and found multiple prisoners inside the cells that were not supposed to be there.

At around 3:30 a.m. on that day, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) Director General Antonio Nila dropped by the city jail unannounced to conduct a surprise check.

The inspection revealed an ac-

cumulation of 161 electric fans, 12 radio lamps and outdoor showers, and three television sets inside the female and male wards.

Gen. Armando Zamora, BJMP regional director for the National Capital Region, said Super Mariano Andino, officer in charge of the facility, would face investigation following the discovery.

He added that there is a poor tally that Andino could be relieved from his post, but this would depend on the results of

the evaluation to be conducted by the Regional Commission on Probation Board. The evaluation, he said, would also be applicable to all jail wardens in Metro Manila.

"This is an on-site inspection. Those who are doing their best and do something about those who are not," Zamora added.

The inspection pertained, part of their standard reporting procedures.

"We usually give priority to jails that are dilapidated and con-

gested," he said, explaining that jail dormitories were most likely subject to overcrowding jails.

"The inspection was a normal procedure," sentiment Maj. Carlos Borjaga, who had just assumed the post as the warden of the female dormitory Friday.

The jail had recently undergone changes in its operational and administrative management. About 304 female inmates had been placed under Borjaga's management. The male inmates are still under Andino's super-

vision. The jail's first floor had been converted to a dormitory for the male inmates, exclusively for the female inmates.

Borjaga said the authorities located much the female ward were not overcrowded.

Andino, on the other hand, said the electric fans inside the cells were in better state since inmates there were more than the number of electrical appliances in the dormitory.

"The fans were confiscated to reduce the electric consumption in

the jail," Andino said, adding that the purpose of the surprise visit was the following items: the electricity bill for the Manila jail amount to roughly 15 million pesos, under the BJMP's budget, he added.

But, jail warden, however, said the radio lamps and outdoor showers were not only for recreational purposes.

"We are not an income-generating institution," Andino added. "The inmates have no other form of recreation inside the jail."

Travel advices fail to stop visit of IPU delegates

By Margara C. Ortiz and Edwin Sandoja Jr.

TRAVEL advisories recently issued against the Philippines have failed to discourage delegates of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) from visiting the country for their week-long conference, according to Philippine National Police (PNP) officials.

"We already have 4,000 even a thousand delegates in the country, around 75 percent of the expected number of delegates to attend the 112th IPU Assembly at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC)," PNP Deputy Director General Reynaldo Viloria said yesterday.

"The only concern that the delegates were not affected by the travel advisories issued by their governments," Viloria, also the Task Force Parliament spokesman, added.

Director General Constantino, 112th IPU Assembly, Organizing Committee chair, said the Philippines has recently received travel advisories from the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, and Australia.

More than 20 British and 15 Australian delegates, and Canadian participants, however, have already arrived in the country for the assembly, he added. The 112 is not a member of the IPU.

Sightseeing

Andino also said they had received reports from the Department of Tourism, which monitors a travel desk of the PICC, that many delegates had expressed interest in traveling to the country's prime tourist destinations.

"Some of them had even made reservations in the manner of Borjaga, Buldo and Cebu," Andino said.

Viloria stressed that the PNP would continue to provide security to delegates who decide to stay in the country even after the conference is over.

Meanwhile, some of some of the delegates spent a free hour yesterday at the famous Pearl Gallery at the Greenhills Shopping Complex in San Juan.

The gallery has become a popular place because of the wide selection of jewelry and jewelry sold in the store.

Pearls harvested in the country are sold at a relatively low price in Manila and elsewhere. Visitors, complex police assistant Anang Del Mundo said for inspection.

Though the arrival of the sales was unexpected, Del Mundo said they were all women ready to purchase pearls.

"We have a lot of people visiting to see a regular basis," she said. "We are ready to provide assistance and security."

Pearl hunt

A group of more than 10 women got off at the complex on board a shuttle bus shortly before noon, while a few actresses board private cars. The municipal police was quick to provide security as the women moved around the shopping complex.

Quincy Pulido, former director Oscar Villanueva and his team police chief Rodrigo Arce were also in the shopping complex yesterday to monitor security at the complex.

"We will make sure that their visit here will be safe," Arce said.

He said they had doubled their security after the complex not only for the delegates but also because of the expected increase in the number of shoppers that came.

About 1,500 foreign lawmakers are joining the assembly which began Sunday night and ends on April 8.

When the police had claimed they were prepared to provide security for the delegates, many groups and they were ready to mount protests to show the government of corruption "the real picture" of the country.

Senators Secretary General Renato Reyes had said about 10,000 protesters, including supporters of the late actor and journalist Amador Fernandez Fajardo Jr., would join a demonstration scheduled on the afternoon of April 7 near the PICC.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2005

SPORTS

Wolves rip Kings



HOUSTON center Dikembe Mutombo (left) blocks Kevin Garnett's shot in the first quarter. The Suns defeated the Rockets, 91-78, and continued to lead the race for the NBA's best record and homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs.

SACRAMENTO, California—Kevin Garnett had 30 points and 13 rebounds, Latrell Sprewell added 23 points and the Minnesota Timberwolves got another big victory for their playoff hopes, beating the Sacramento Kings, 112-100, Sunday.

Sam Cassell scored 13 of his 16 points in the first half for the Timberwolves, who have won four straight regular-season games in Sacramento. Minnesota made 53 percent of its shots and took a 16-point lead early in the fourth quarter before holding on to extend the longest current winning streak of any opponent at Arco Arena.

The ninth-place Timberwolves (30-35) stayed three games behind Denver and Memphis for the final two Western Conference playoff spots. The Grizzlies beat the Los Angeles Lakers, 102-82, Sunday night, while the Nuggets were idle.

Pepi Stojakovic scored 25 points for the Kings, who grabbed a season-high 24 offensive rebounds. Sacramento dropped into a tie for fifth place in the conference with the Houston Rockets, which lost to Phoenix, 91-78, later in the day.

The Suns (36-17) gained a step ahead of the Miami Heat and the San Antonio Spurs in the race for the league's best record and the homecourt edge throughout the playoffs.

In Washington, Stephen Jackson and Anthony Johnson each scored 15 points to help the Indiana Pacers overcome a 13-point third-quarter

deficit and nip the Wizards, 79-76, for their third straight triumph.

The loss denied the Wizards a chance to secure their first winning season since 1997-98, when they went 42-40 and were swept from the first round of the playoffs by the Michael Jordan-led Chicago Bulls. The setback also put coach Eddie Jordan's 100th career victory on hold.

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 37 points and Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 21 in a 100-80 rout of the Dallas Mavericks that kept the Cavaliers tied with Indiana for the sixth playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

In Boston, Allen Iverson scored 38 points in the Philadelphia 76ers, who blew most of a 26-point first-quarter lead but held on to a 97-93 victory over the Celtics to move three games behind Boston in the race for the Atlantic Division crown.

Philadelphia, which had lost three straight, moved a game ahead of Orlando for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. Elsewhere, Milwaukee defeated New York, 106-102; Golden State surprised Seattle, 101-92; The Los Angeles Clippers trounced Atlanta, 111-91 and Detroit nipped Toronto, 113-101.

In Oakland, California, Jason Richardson scored 22 points and Baron Davis had 19 points and nine assists in Golden State's victory over cold-shooting Seattle.

The playoff-bound Sonics raised a chance to clinch the franchise's first division title since winning their third straight Pacific Division crown in 1997-98, getting outshouted on the boards and knee balls and outplayed on both ends. AP

Federer bags Nasdaq title

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida—Roger Federer waited until late in the third set Sunday to unleash his most forceful forehand, raising the racket and screaming it to the hardcourt at his feet.

This was the winner of the ATP Tour sponsorship award, on the ropes and pitching a fit in the final of the Nasdaq-100 Open.

The outburst seemed to help. Twice two points from deficit, the top-ranked Federer rallied for his fifth tournament title this year, beating 18-year-old Rafael Nadal, 2-6, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (2), 6-3, 6-1.

"I was missing one opportunity after the other," Federer said. "I really felt like I was climbing uphill all the time, and I just had enough. So I threw my racket hard. Maybe it did me good and

kind of woke up. Who knows?"

Facing the stylish Nadal, Federer showed up with a flashy outfit and game to match. He led 4-1 in the third set and 5-3 in the ensuing tiebreak, but Federer's shots became more accurate and aggressive as he overtook a tiring Nadal in the 5-hour, 42-minute marathon.

The performance by Nadal, the youngest men's finalist in tournament history since Boris Yeltsin, was a Davis Cup hero in Spain's victory over the United States last December, and he'll be among the favorites at this year's French Open—and future major events as well.

"For me this was a big match," Federer said, "because I know what a great player he will be one day." AP

Phil strikes in BellSouth

DULUTH, Georgia—Tuning up for his Masters defense, Phil Mickelson shot a 7-under 65 on Sunday to move within a stroke of leader Scott McCarron with one round to play in the rain-delayed BellSouth Classic.

McCarron, the 1997 and 2001 at the TPC at Sugarloaf, shot his second straight 69 for a 6-under 138 total on the Greg Norman-designed course.

Mickelson opened the day tied for 61st after a 74 on Saturday in the opening round that was plagued by rain, sleet, snow and 60 mph (40 mph) wind. AP



STOCKINGER

Stockinger marks b-day with a bang

BIFFEL-PIA driver Mark Stockinger struck hardest on his birthday Sunday, sweeping his two races in impressive style in the second leg of the 2005 Shell Mobil Superstar Series at the Boom na Boom Kart Trak at the CFC Complex on Foxen Boulevard.

Stockinger, displaying maturity and perfect timing, upstaged Aston karting queen Michelle Burgeson and reigning Master of the Year Matteo Goldinelli in bagging both the ICA Open and Formula Rotax Max Series titles.

Stockinger started fifth on the grid of the Rotax Max Series, took the

eleventh of openings in the eighth lap to overtake Cebu Racing Group's Goldinelli and pressed on to pass Ben Campit, also of CRG, in the 15th lap.

Stockinger timed 15 minutes and 7.861 seconds for the victory.

Campit checked in just 0.156 seconds behind, with Marty Agallier of Touch Intero finishing third and Goldinelli and Allen Uy winding up fourth and fifth, respectively, in the event sponsored by the Philippine Shell, Denso Iridium Power, Hydrosystems by Phil Allied Inc. Corp., BMC Horns, Rotax Motorcycle Racing, Kross and Arvin Insurance.

Stockinger was more impressive in the Open class race, battling Goldinelli and Burgeson for the front in the first 23 laps before pulling ahead to stay as his rivals figured in a minor collision.

A cornering maneuver that got underway her with Goldinelli dealt a big blow to Burgeson's bid with three laps left.

Stockinger clocked 14:12.419 minutes, 2.344 seconds in front of Goldinelli.

Indy Villalon, also of Biffel-Pia, finished third, just ahead of Arvin Denso and Burgeson.

Paulo Eche topped the RT Light class over Jeje Villalon and Omering Bander.

Beer in the NBA

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



Those seats exclusively belong to Mike Magturo for the entire season. They are his for as long as he wants them. If he gets fed up owning them, he can either sell them or gift them to a friend, or even pass them down as inheritance to his children.

Mike Magturo's seats are not exactly your great idea of seats in an NBA game. They are in the bleachers. Not in America, an NBA seat, wherever it is, is as precious as your eyetooth.

Having placed myself in the bleachers was a redundancy of sorts. It made me feel boxed new again.

Back in the olden days when I was not yet a sportswriter, seeing myself watching basketball games—mostly the Mike matches—felt like heaven already, even if I was holed up in the bleachers. Just by being there, being where the action was, why that was a good enough reason to enjoy every minute of my stint inside the cavernous Rialto Coliseum.

It's been years, decades actually, since I had had that experience. And what a way to meet it—*at* the Staples Center yet.

The Staples Center, home of the Lakers, is not really an architectural marvel, although it has escalators to get you to the upper levels of the structure quicker than usual. Its seating grace, though, are its large, open-air verandas that give you the luxury to wallow in beer and barbecue and cigarettes under the stars at the halftime break.

Jon and I had beer there at the half, mingling with American folk not really deep into NBA talk during the break but more inclined to blather about their day at the office than how Lake Kobe Bryant was being in the first two quarters.

After sometime, one fan tried to pick up a conversation with me and, being my nature, I obliged.

"How's your boss today?" he asked.

"Fine," I said.

"No fights today?"

"None," I said.

"Good for you," he said. "Quit my job today?"

He smiled his glass. I raised mine, too.

That's when Jon said it was time for us to go back to our seats.

Armed with our beer poured into two plastic cups, Jon and I hurried back to the game.

Kobe Bryant had scored a jumper just in time when we reclaimed our position, which was really quite far from the action down below, but what the heck. This was the NBA, the real stuff.

And who was?

Can't remember.

The beer tasted fine. It had to.

The two cups of beer cost me more than one thousand pesos.

S.Tagalog Rotary tourney tees off at John Hay Friday

THE DISTRICT 3820 Rotary International of Southern Tagalog will hold the fourth and last leg of the Centennial Governor's Golf Cup on Friday at the Camp John Hay Golf and Country Club in Baguio City.

Big prizes, including a motorbike donated by former district governor Chito Rector for anyone who scores a hole in one, are up for grabs in the tournament sponsored by the Philippine Golfers

Association of New York, Jebast Multi-Bless Corp., RAM Builders, Rural Bank of San Antonio, former district governor Bobby Legaspi, Lupa Games and Amusement Corp., JSC Construction, Emil Rose Grill and Mark Mendez.

Raul Montalino, president of the Rotary Club of Lupa, District 3740 governor John Paul Jayson Cadagang, Edwin Gerardo and past president Abe Avena are helping run the tournament.

Invited to hit the centennial drive are former district governor Bobby Legaspi, Pong Hoo Bong, Chito Rector, District governor Mike Lito and District president Raul Montalino.

Tickets are available at Camp John Hay Pro Shop at P2,500, inclusive of meals and giveaways. A discounted rate of P1,250 is offered to Camp John Hay members. For inquiries, call Abe Avena at 0917-504-0843.

MIAA to raise \$300M to pay Naia 3 builders

Public sector debt bit P4.6T in Sept. 2004

By Michelle C. Brown

THE BUDGETARY debt of the non-financial public sector has grown to P4.565 trillion as of September 2004, as government assets and non-financial corporations have increased their investments in housing.

The non-financial public sector includes the national government, local government units, social security institutions and the 14 government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), being increased by the Department of Finance (DOF). Data from the DOF showed that the P4.565 trillion debt of the non-financial public sector was 5.4 percent higher than the P4.349 trillion recorded at the end of 2003.

The latest debt figure of the non-financial public sector was also increased by 4.6 percent of the country's gross domestic product, or better than the 38.1 percent increase recorded in 2003.

The debt figure was composed of assets of the DOF, which adopted method of calculating public sector debt, is significant as the latest national financial report.

The asset and debt, which is also being applied to other countries, statistics that the computation will also provide important information, such as the savings by national government in the non-financial public sector, or vice versa.

This also is that the non-financial public sector debt is

By Charles S. Brown

THE MIAA International Airport Authority is raising about \$300 million in a 3-year syndicated loan from local and foreign banks to cover the project's costs. The project, that built the Manila International Airport Terminal 3, is being built by a consortium of Japanese, American and Chinese companies. The project is being built by a consortium of Japanese, American and Chinese companies. The project is being built by a consortium of Japanese, American and Chinese companies.

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Breaktime

people's society. One of its mainstays is a holding company which has an impressive list of assets, including properties and Manila-based companies.

And who is that King Kong? It's the Manila-based holding company, which has an impressive list of assets, including properties and Manila-based companies.

It's a little wonder that the company got a lot of attention from the public. It was founded in 1997, during the administration of Benigno Aquino III. It was founded in 1997, during the administration of Benigno Aquino III. It was founded in 1997, during the administration of Benigno Aquino III.

Bearbull

confused at the terms of a strategy deal. Experience has shown that a business transaction in the stock market is of confidence and the transaction is not a simple matter. It is not a simple matter. It is not a simple matter. It is not a simple matter.

and it might, following a series of other grants. The MIAA, established by the Department of Transportation and Communications, has the right to possess and property in order to build public works.

Meanwhile, the transport agency "negotiated the right of possession of the land, and will go to the court to get the right established, as it is the court's decision," Castillo said.

The MIAA president, who has been unable to increase its staff despite the increasing level of work.

There is 40 percent owned by the Chinese company, the 30 percent by the Japanese company, and 30 percent by the Philippine company. The company is a joint venture of the three companies.

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BUSINESS**NFA sees higher rice importation**

By Christine K. Gayles

NFA to pass harvest in the last quarter of 2001 and the first quarter of this year, the National Food Authority said it would import another 300,000 metric tons of rice this month to maintain 30-day buffer stock.

This will bring the country's total rice importation so far to 1.2 million metric tons. About 900,000 metric tons of rice were imported by the first two months of the year.

"We have suffered our second lowest in the present market situation. The December typhoon badly damaged the main harvest so we are stepping the allowed volume of importation to preserve the country's buffer stock," NFA Administrator Gregorio Tan Jr. said in an interview.

The NFA's rice stock part of a 30-day national buffer stock which should be maintained at about 3.5 million metric tons, based on the average daily consumption of 29,000 metric tons. The national buffer stock also includes commercial and household rice inventories.

The semi-agency continues on grain—comprised of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Finance and the Department of Trade and Industry—had allowed NFA to import up to 1.5 million metric tons of rice this year.

Tan said he was hoping the second quarter harvest would be higher to eliminate the need for further importation.

Tan said if the second quarter harvest would not improve, the country's rice importation might hit year high at the level of 1.5 million metric tons, which would be the highest since 1997 when importation reached



EFFORTS from Vietnam and Thailand help NFA maintain buffer stock.

1 million metric tons due to severe drought. "If the NFA would see that there would be insufficient stocks held by the commercial sector and the household, we would have to increase and import more," Tan said.

In January and February the country imported about 900,000 metric tons of rice from Vietnam and Thailand.

"We are awaiting the April survey to be conducted by the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics to see if we would need to import more," he added.

Tan admitted that the country's rice importation was now higher than the earlier estimate of 900,000 to 950,000 MT.

Last year's total rice imports reached only 950,000 metric tons.

New Philippine show jumping record set

A 50th names gold medalist Maierla "Mila" Gonsales Jr. (right) and John "John" Gonsales Jr. (left) are the winners of the 2001 New Philippine Open Jumping Championship held at the Manila Polo Club in Manila City.

The previous height record was set in 1970 by James V. Cox.

Champion and international veteran rider Maierla Gonsales Jr. (right) and American youth Olympic rider John Gonsales Jr. (left) are the winners of the 2001 New Philippine Open Jumping Championship held at the Manila Polo Club in Manila City.

In the 1.50 m class, Maierla Gonsales Jr. won his first gold medal in the 1.50 m class. The second team of Maierla Gonsales Jr. and John Gonsales Jr. won the bronze medal in the 1.50 m class. The winner of the 1.50 m class was Maierla Gonsales Jr. (right) and John Gonsales Jr. (left).

The competition, now on its second year, was held by the Manila Polo Club. The winners of the 1.50 m class were Maierla Gonsales Jr. (right) and John Gonsales Jr. (left). The winners of the 1.50 m class were Maierla Gonsales Jr. (right) and John Gonsales Jr. (left).

The event, which was the second of a series of events, was held by the Manila Polo Club. The winners of the 1.50 m class were Maierla Gonsales Jr. (right) and John Gonsales Jr. (left).



Maierla Gonsales Jr. (right) and John Gonsales Jr. (left) are the winners of the 2001 New Philippine Open Jumping Championship.



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Maierla Gonsales Jr. (right) and John Gonsales Jr. (left) are the winners of the 2001 New Philippine Open Jumping Championship.

Asian cruise for winners of Celebrity Open



Maierla Gonsales Jr. (right) and John Gonsales Jr. (left) are the winners of the 2001 New Philippine Open Jumping Championship.



Maierla Gonsales Jr. (right) and John Gonsales Jr. (left) are the winners of the 2001 New Philippine Open Jumping Championship.

SIX CELEBRITIES are going on an Asian cruise after being named Best Timoteos (Best Timoteos) winners of the 2001 Celebrity Open (Best Timoteos) in the Philippines.

The Orange Team led by the Timoteos winners, Ben, Al and Goni, with Maierla Gonsales Jr. (right) and John Gonsales Jr. (left) are the winners of the 2001 New Philippine Open Jumping Championship.

The winning team, which won the 2001 New Philippine Open Jumping Championship, was led by the Timoteos winners, Ben, Al and Goni, with Maierla Gonsales Jr. (right) and John Gonsales Jr. (left).

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Basketball school starts classes

THE INTERNATIONAL Basketball Academy (IBA) presents the 2001 Basketball School, the newest and most unique basketball school in the world.

The class, which was started by the IBA, is the newest and most unique basketball school in the world. The class, which was started by the IBA, is the newest and most unique basketball school in the world.

The program was initiated by the IBA, which is the newest and most unique basketball school in the world. The program was initiated by the IBA, which is the newest and most unique basketball school in the world.

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